

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10

AID-05 /080 W

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O 061215Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2593

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0025

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIANS SKEPTICAL OF SOVIETS BUT WANT TO HELP THEM
WITHDRAW

REFS: MOSCOW 13; STATE 1447

1. SUMMARY. ZAMBIANS QUESTION SOVIET SINCERITY ON
ANGOLA BUT WANT TO HELP SOVIETS FIND FACE-SAVING WAY FOR
GRACEFUL WITHDRAWAL IF PRAVDA'S WORDS ENDORSED BY SOVIET
LEADERSHIP AND IF LANGUAGE CAN BE FOUND TO WHICH SOVIETS
AND AFRICANS COULD AGREE REGARDING SOVIET INTENTIONS.
URGENTLY REQUEST DEPT'S LEGAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN
SEARCH FOR ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE WHICH ZAMBIANS MIGHT BE
WILLING TO USE AT OAU SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. ON ORDERS FROM STATE HOUSE, ZAMBIAN PRESS HAS GIVEN
PROMINENT PLAY TO PRAVDA SUGGESTION THAT OFFICIAL SOVIET
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LINE TENDING TO BECOME MORE CONCILIATORY SO AS TO

SIGNAL RUSSIANS OPPORTUNITY OPEN TO THEM FOR GRACEFUL
EXIT PLEASING TO AFRICANS IF SOVIETS SINCERE IN
SPEAKING OF ENDING INTERVENTION AND ALLOWING ANGOLAN
PEOPLE TO DECIDE THEIR FUTURE. BUT RUNNING
THROUGH ZAMBIAN NEWS AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE HAS BEEN
FAINTEST NOTE OF CAUTION AND SKEPTICISM IN SEEKING
OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OF PRAVDA LINE BY SOVIET LEADERS
THEMSELVES.

3. THIS CAUTION AND SKEPTICISM REFLECTS STRONG MISGIVINGS
ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS WHICH PRES KAUNDA AND CHONA HAVE
PRIVATELY EXPRESSED TO ME. I INTEND TALKING WITH CHONA
BEFORE FULL ZAMBIAN DELEGATION LEAVES FOR ADDIS IN HOPES OF
ENCOURAGING HIM TO ELABORATE DRAFT AFRICAN DEFINITIONS OF "WITH-
DRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES" AND ALLOWING "PEOPLE TO DECIDE OWN
FATE" TO WHICH AFRICANS AND SOVIETS COULD AGREE. CHONA SO
PRESSED FOR TIME, SHORT OF STAFF AND BUSY TRYING TO GET
SIGNED, WRITTEN UNDERSTANDING WITH SOVIETS HERE ON TERMS
OF HIS JAN 1 CONVERSATION WITH THEM (LUSAKA 8) THAT WE EXPECT
HE WILL LOOK TO US FOR SUGGESTED WORDING IN FIRST INSTANCE.
COULD DEPT'S LEGAL AND SOVIET EXPERTS PROVIDE US WITH THIS
ON URGENT BASIS?
WILKOWSKI

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LUSAKA00025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760003-1013
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760181/aaaacuek.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 13, 76 STATE 1447
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAMBIANS SKEPTICAL OF SOVIETS BUT WANT TO HELP THEM WITHDRAW
TAGS: PFOR, AO, ZA, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006